

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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June 24, 2003

**FROM: CATHY CIMBALO, Director  
Department of Children's Services**

**SUBJECT: CONTRACT WITH THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO  
PROVIDE PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM  
SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve contract with the Community Services Department to provide Promoting Safe and Stable Families program services throughout the County of San Bernardino for the period beginning July 1, 2003, and ending September 30, 2003, in an amount not to exceed \$369,645.00.

**BACKGROUND:** Federal Public Law 105-89, the Adoptions and Safe Families Act of 1997, re-authorizes the Family Preservation/Family Support Services as part of Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF). Emphasis of this Act is on the development of community-based family support services, family preservation services and time-limited family reunification services. This legislation is designed to provide community-based preventive activities to families at risk of separating permanently. PSSF's primary goals are to increase safety by reducing the recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect, and to increase stability/permanence by helping biological and adoptive families stay together, avoiding removal of children from their homes, facilitating time-limited reunifications, and promoting the adoption or guardianship of children in foster care.

Each year, the County investigates allegations of abuse and neglect to more than 50,000 children. The major goal of the Child Welfare Services System is to protect and promote the welfare of all children by preventing and/or remedying problems that may result in or have resulted from neglect or abuse. The County of San Bernardino has been providing various forms of these PSSF program services through contracted agencies over the past eight years. A community needs assessment conducted by the County indicates families and communities require and desire a conveniently located facility where supplemental and comprehensive services can be easily accessed.

On March 30, 1999, the Board of Supervisors approved a three-year PSSF Plan submitted by the Department of Children's Services (DCS) and Children's Network. On September 30, 2002, DCS and Children's Network submitted a new three-year Plan in accordance with California Department of Social Services (CDSS) All-County letter (ACL) No. 02-32 and Federal regulations (45 CFR 1355, 1357). The new plan for services reflects goals, objectives and related activities for the three-year period from 2003 through 2005, and includes a status report on the last three-year period.

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On May 7, 2002, the Board of Supervisors approved and authorized for release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for PSSF program services based on the PSSF Three-Year Plan. The RFP resulted in an MOU between DCS and the Community Services Department (CSD). The MOU was for a one-year period based on Federal Fiscal Year October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003. Effective July 1, 2003, CSD will no longer be a County Department; therefore, it is necessary to convert the MOU to a Contract. This Contract will enable CSD to fulfill its one-year agreement with DCS to provide PSSF services. This Contract will be for the period beginning July 1, 2003 and ending September 30, 2003, with the option to renew for two additional one-year periods.

Services provided by the Contractor include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Emergency Shelter through Motel Vouchers not to exceed three days per household per year.
- Emergency Food Services through Food Vouchers not to exceed \$100.00 per household per year.
- Rental Assistance.
- Vehicle Repair (limited safety repairs, e.g., brakes, lights, tires, etc.).
- Hard Goods such as bunk beds, mattresses, dinette sets, sheets, pillows and various appliances.
- Housing Resources list.
- Utility Assistance.
- Transportation assistance as needed.

Contractor performance is measured by reviewing the required monthly reports and semi-annual site visits by County staff to monitor fiscal and program elements. In addition, Federal Outcome Measures have been developed to measure the achievement of the two primary PSSF goals. The Federal Outcome Measures are:

- Reduction of the recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect
- Reduction of the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care
- Increase of permanency for children in foster care
- Reduction of time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry
- Increase in placement stability
- Reduction of placement of young children in group homes or institutions

Approval of this item will allow DCS to continue to work with CSD to provide PSSF services in accordance with the County's three-year plan to promote child safety and stabilize families that are at risk of separating.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This contract has been reviewed by HSS Contract Compliance (Lori Ciabattini, Administrative Supervisor) on May 22, 2003; and County Counsel (Ruth Stringer, Chief Deputy County Counsel) on June 5, 2003. This item has also been reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Gary Morris, Administrative Analyst) on June 5, 2003; and HSS Finance (Kris Letterman, Administrative Manager) on June 5, 2003.

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**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Approval of this Contract will carry forward the remaining MOU balance of approximately \$369,645.00 for the remainder of the Federal FY 02/03. PSSF is 100% federally funded, and future funding has been confirmed. There are no local costs. Adequate provisions are included in the Department's FY 03/04 proposed budget.

**Cost Reduction Review:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends this action based on the fact that this contract is 100% federally funded and these funds are not in jeopardy.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS:** All

**PRESENTER:** Cathy Cimbalo, Director, Department of Children's Services, (909) 388-0242

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